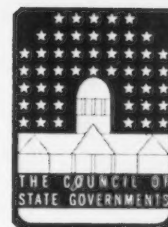


# STATE GOVERNMENT NEWS

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Vol. 2

June, 1959

No. 6

## GOVERNORS' MESSAGES

An article on trends of state government as indicated by messages of Governors to most of the 1959 legislatures appeared in the spring quarterly issue of State Government. Following are some of the highlights of messages of the Governors of Alabama and Florida, where the legislatures convened after preparation of the State Government article.

**Alabama** -- Recommendations on finance, educational appropriations, public assistance, reapportionment, highway bonds and nuclear energy were among major features of Governor John Patterson's message to the Alabama legislature.

Among appropriation proposals he recommended a general fund of \$75.5 million for 1959-61.

For new school buildings, additional classrooms and other educational facilities the Governor proposed a total biennial appropriation of \$330 million from the Special Educational Trust Fund -- \$42 million more per year than is expected to come in from revenue measures now in effect.

To provide for increased expenditures he recommended that the legislature enact: (1) a 3 per cent tax on new and used autos and trucks, to bring in \$17.3 million a year; (2) a 3 per cent gross privilege license tax on all construction contracts in excess of \$25,000, to bring in \$15.5 million a year; (3) a constitutional amendment increasing the corporation income tax from 3 to 5 per cent, which would bring in \$4.8 million annually; and (4) reduced personal income tax exemptions, to produce \$4.6 million a year. Another proposal was for a \$75 million bond issue for school construction, \$25 million of it to go to institutions of higher education.

The Governor recommended an appropriation of \$15.8 million from the general fund for the Department of Pensions and Security -- an increase of \$6.7 million over the corres-

ponding appropriation for the current biennium.

Governor Patterson urged the legislature to submit constitutional amendments to effect proper legislative reapportionment. He stated that \$20 million of an authorized \$60 million in highway revenue bonds had been sold and that the bonds would be issued only as needed. A special session of the legislature in February had authorized the bonds for federal matching purposes.

Referring to a newly proposed Southern Interstate Nuclear Compact providing for co-operative atomic energy research, training, and development, the Governor asked for ratification of such a compact. A committee of the Southern Governors' Conference is now considering the draft of a compact for these ends. (See note, "Southern Nuclear Energy Compact Proposed," page 4.)

Among other recommendations Governor Patterson proposed enactment of the Uniform Act to Secure Attendance of Out-of-State Witnesses -- now in force in forty-four states -- and called for increased maximum unemployment benefits.

**Florida** -- State finance, education, health, welfare and other state services were subjects of recommendations by Governor LeRoy Collins to the Florida legislature.

Dealing with Budget Commission proposals for general fund expenditures of \$725 million, he indicated he would later recommend some reduction in the proposed appropriations, and also some additional undertakings not covered in the commission's recommendations.

The Governor recommended ending the sales tax exemption of alcoholic and malt beverages sold for consumption off the premises; removal of the sales tax exemption of tangible personal property purchased by private contractors for public works contracts; and earmarking of the revenue from the seventh cent of the present gasoline tax for secondary roads, with allocation of this revenue among the counties on the basis of the proportions collected in them. Also proposed was a new comprehensive law for escheat of unclaimed property to the state.

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Governor Collins recommended establishment of four new junior colleges and support for a new four-year higher educational institution at Boca Raton. He advised creation of the position of chancellor for the university system and expansion of the statewide educational television network.

The Governor called for a trial demonstration of foster-home mental care for the aged and broadened hospital service for indigent citizens. He advocated discontinuing earmarked funds for alcoholic rehabilitation and urged that further support for this program be provided from general revenue.

The Governor recommended abolition of capital punishment and substitution of a mandatory life sentence, subject to no clemency or relief for twenty-five years except on proof of innocence.

Among other proposals the Governor called for a boat licensing and regulatory act; continued support of the Florida Nuclear Development Commission; a law prescribing ethical conduct for public officials and employees; and a uniform enabling act permitting establishment of planning boards to deal with zoning problems of urban development outside city limits. The Governor also asked the legislature to authorize use of federal assistance for urban renewal and slum clearance.

In a separate message Governor Collins outlined proposals for constitutional revision as drafted by a special committee and urged their careful consideration, particularly of proposals on legislative reapportionment, constitutional conventions and local legislation.

#### GOVERNORS TO VISIT RUSSIA

Nine Governors will leave June 23 for a twenty-one day visit to the Soviet Union. New York University and the Institute of International Education, organizations sponsoring the trip, invited the Executive Committee of the Governors' Conference to make the tour as a first step in an exchange of information and persons concerned with administration of state and local governments in the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Included in the group are seven of the nine member Executive Committee: Governors LeRoy Collins of Florida, Chairman of the Executive Committee, George D. Clyde of Utah, John E. Davis of North Dakota, Stephen L. R. McNichols of Colorado, Robert B. Meyner of New Jersey, William G. Stratton of Illinois and Cecil H. Underwood of West Virginia. Governors Luther H. Hodges of North Carolina and Robert E. Smylie of Idaho complete the group.

In their observation of government in the Soviet Republics, the Governors will concentrate on such fields as education, rural and urban development, agricultural and industrial activity, hydroelectric development and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Moscow,

Leningrad, Kiev, Tiflis and Tashkent are among cities the Governors hope to visit.

In addition to the Governors the official party is expected to include Alexander Dallin, Associate Professor of International Affairs, Columbia University, who will serve as interpreter; Professor Marshall Dimock, Department of Government, New York University; Kenneth Holland, President, Institute of International Education; John E. Ivey, Jr., Executive Vice President, New York University; Richard Myer, Director of the East-West Exchanges Department, Institute of International Education; John L. Perry, Administrative Assistant to Governor Collins; Professor Frank Trager, Director of New York University's Center for International Affairs and Development; and Brevard Carihfield, Secretary of the Governors' Conference.

Arrangements for the trip are being made by the Institute of International Education, which has received funds for the purpose from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS

Colorado -- The 1959 Colorado legislature approved general fund appropriations of \$71.1 million for the next fiscal year -- \$8 million more than corresponding outlays in 1958-59. Basic school support for 1959-60 went up by about \$2 million, to \$25.2 million. Part of a \$1.2 million increase for institutions of higher learning will raise faculty salaries.

Broad revision of the state's tax structure is expected to raise income by about \$8.5 million in 1959-60 and \$16.3 million yearly thereafter. The changes followed a report of an eighteen month Governor's study of fiscal needs, authorized by the 1957 legislature. Personal income taxes were increased from 1 to 3 per cent in the minimum bracket and lowered in the maximum bracket from 10 to 9 per cent. The withholding rate was raised from 4 to 6 per cent on lower and middle incomes, and the exemption on dividend and interest income went from \$600 to \$5,000. Corporation income taxes were raised by discontinuing allowance for federal income tax payments. The levy on beer was raised from 3 to 6 cents a gallon, on light wine from 12 to 30 cents a gallon, on fortified wine

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from 24 to 30 cents a gallon and on hard liquor from 20 to 22.5 cents a pint. Other revisions increased insurance premium taxes from 2 to 2-1/4 per cent on out-of-state firms and placed a 1 per cent tax on firms having half or more of their assets in the state.

In addition to paying for higher general expenditures the tax revisions are expected to permit establishment of a capital construction budget as a distinct category. Its preparation will be one of the duties of a newly established Joint Budget Committee of the legislature.

An act authorizing the Governor to appoint the Commissioner of Mines as Director of Natural Resources permits activation of the Department of Natural Resources, created by the 1957 legislature to coordinate activities of ten state agencies dealing with land, water, minerals, timber and wildlife.

The legislature established a point system for traffic violations to replace an administratively designed system that had been challenged in the courts. Points assigned against a driver's record range from one for parking violations to twelve for drunken or hit-run driving. Twelve points in a year constitute grounds for license revocation following a hearing.

In other action the legislature ratified the Western Interstate Corrections Compact and adopted regulations for registration and handling of small boats.

**Rhode Island** -- The Rhode Island legislature convened January 6 and adjourned May 27 -- its longest session in thirty-five years. Some of the measures reported in the following summary of legislation await action by Governor Christopher Del Sesto.

The legislature adopted a \$79.6 million budget, approximately equal to that approved last year. Subject to referendum it also approved a \$3.5 million bond issue for highways and \$2.8 million in borrowing for capital development projects. Various temporary taxes were continued. The sales tax was amended to permit new car purchasers to deduct the trade-in value of old cars before paying the tax.

The legislature established a commission to draft legislation for reapportioning the House of Representatives on the basis of the 1960 census. Other acts provided for creation of a Legislative Council and a fiscal advisory staff for the House Finance Committee.

Among several measures affecting higher education, one makes scholarships available each year to 5 per cent of the state's high school graduates. Another created a \$50,000 fund to back up loans by banks to college students. The Rhode Island College of Education was reorganized as a general liberal arts college; the Board of Trustees of State Colleges was directed to study the feasibility of establishing two-year community colleges; and a commission was created to study elementary and secondary education.

Further adoptions included a code requir-

ing registration of all motor boats under 65 feet long. A boat registration fee was set at \$3 for three years. Cash prizes in bingo games were permitted up to \$100 per game and \$1,000 per evening. The legislature authorized chemical tests for drunken driving if the suspect agrees. It tightened control of small arms. Licensing of real estate brokers and salesmen was provided for, and the borrowing capacity of the Business Development Company of Rhode Island was increased.

**Correction** -- In reporting on New Mexico legislation of 1959 the May issue of State Government News incorrectly reported that the legislature passed a law giving judges discretion to revoke licenses in drunken driving cases. A bill providing for such judicial discretion was in fact vetoed by the Governor. The current law, passed in 1953, makes license revocation mandatory upon conviction for drunken driving.

#### OHIO ELECTION LAW CHANGED

The Ohio legislature has passed a measure permitting electors to vote for President and Vice President after forty days residence in the state, county and precinct. The law implements a constitutional amendment approved by the electorate in 1957. Previous requirements called for state residence of one year.

#### LEGISLATURES

**Speaker of New York Assembly Dies** -- Oswald D. Heck, Speaker of the New York Assembly for a record twenty-two years, died of a heart attack May 21. In New York the Speaker is elected by majority vote of the Assembly. Mr. Heck's ninety-one predecessors over a period of 160 years had averaged less than two years in office. He had served in the Assembly since 1931 and was Majority Leader in 1936-37.

**Legislative Costs in South Dakota** -- The South Dakota Legislative Research Council has published a report on the cost of legislative sessions for the last thirty years.

Charts and tables for legislative expenses -- presented for the regular biennial sessions of 1929 and 1939 through 1959 -- show that in 1959 they were nearly three times those of thirty years ago. Adjusted to a price index, the 1959 costs represent an increase of 39 per cent over 1929, 33 per cent over 1939 and 32 per cent over 1949.

Certain costs of the legislature, such as assistance to state departments and state officers and employees, are not included.

The report shows that despite the great increase in legislative costs, the percentage they represent of total state expenditure declined from about .55 per cent in 1929 to approximately .31 per cent in 1957. Per capita



cost of operating the legislature increased from 19 cents in 1929 to 50 cents in 1959.

Tables and charts in the report also show legislative costs per legislator, per legislative day, per measure introduced and per measure enacted. Salaries, expense allowances and mileage costs of legislators are listed for the period covered.

#### CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT

The Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization reports that twenty-eight states have adopted all or some part of the continuity of government legislation recommended by OCDM and the Committee of State Officials on Suggested State Legislation, Council of State Governments. The seven most recent adoptions are by Alaska, Connecticut, Hawaii, Missouri, North Carolina, Oregon and Texas. Legislation has been approved by both houses in Oklahoma and awaits action by the Governor.

#### ATOMIC ENERGY

Southern Nuclear Energy Compact Proposed -- The draft of a proposed Southern Interstate Nuclear Compact was approved in Nashville, Tennessee, on April 22-23 at a conference jointly sponsored by the Southern Regional Advisory Council on Nuclear Energy (RACNE) and the Council of State Governments. The compact was drafted by RACNE at the request of the Southern Governors' Conference, for submission to its Committee on Nuclear Energy. That committee is now considering the proposed compact.

Aim of the instrument is coordination of public and private energies and talents in atomic development for best peaceful application. States eligible to be party to the compact are Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia.

Atomic Power Commission -- The Illinois Atomic Power Investigating Commission has submitted a report to the legislature on the economic and social impact of civilian use of atomic power on Illinois citizens. The commission included State Senators, Representatives and officials concerned with atomic power, as well as scientists and representatives of industry, labor and the insurance business.

In its conclusions the commission said that regulatory control of atomic energy and liability provisions on radiation hazards must be resolved at both the state and federal levels. It recommended adoption of a state radiation protection act, creation of an Illinois Legislative Commission on Atomic Energy, and appropriations for a public information program. Likewise proposed were educational funds to match federal allotments under the National Defense Education

Act. The commission favored continuation of the personnel training program of the Illinois Civil Defense Agency.

Sections of the report are devoted to industrial applications of atomic energy, radiation and public health, compensation for radiation injuries, relevant state activities, and national controls. A table lists state programs of study and coordination, and state legislation on radiation hazards and disposal of radioactive materials.

#### HIGHWAYS

Iowa Joins Western Highway Agreement -- Iowa has become the tenth member of the Western Prorating and Reciprocity Agreement on truck taxation. Other party states are California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon and Washington. The agreement permits owners of fleets of commercial vehicles operating in two or more states to prorate the registration fees of their vehicles in each state on the basis of the miles operated within that state as a proportion of total fleet miles.

Utility Relocation Reimbursement -- A report by the Massachusetts Legislative Research Council summarizes state action as regards reimbursement to utilities for relocation of facilities as a result of highway construction. The problem has become more acute since expansion of the federal-aid highway program in 1956.

The report shows that eighteen states had approved some form of reimbursement for utility relocation -- one in 1956, sixteen in 1957 and one in 1958.

In Idaho, Massachusetts (permissive law), Montana, New Mexico, Tennessee and Utah the law provides for payment of relocation costs on federal-aid systems of all classes. The Montana act provides for payment of 75 per cent of relocation costs. Tennessee's calls for reimbursement on federal-aid roads other than the interstate system only in cases of hardship. The Tennessee law was held unconstitutional by the State Supreme Court, and the case has been appealed to the United States Supreme Court.

In ten states -- Delaware, Florida, Illinois (permissive law), Maine, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas and Virginia -- the laws provide for payment of relocation costs only on the interstate system. Virginia provides for payment only in connection with the interstate system within cities or towns.

In Connecticut an act calling for state payment of relocation costs on planned-access trunk line highways was amended to provide (1) the state will pay for relocation on limited access trunk highways and (2) the state is to pay not less than 50 per cent of the cost of relocation on other trunk line and state-aid highways. Washington restricts its payments to meeting costs of relocating municipally-owned overhead fa-

cilities on planned access highways in municipalities.

**Highway Department Uses Nuclear Device --** The Michigan Highway Department has reported using a nuclear device to test the earth and stone foundation for new segments of the Detroit-Chicago Expressway. Density of the roadbed is determined through use of a nuclear density-moisture gauge. Using the gauge, the department reports, a two-man crew with one vehicle can perform the work of five men and five vehicles using conventional methods.

#### TRAFFIC CONTROL, SAFETY

**Traffic Police Training Program --** Police officers from nine states recently completed a nine-month Traffic Police Administration Training Program at Northwestern University's Traffic Institute. State police officers from Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Kentucky, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Texas, and Washington attended for two semesters. The program included classroom study and discussion, work projects and field study trips. Subjects covered included non-police highway transportation agencies and their problems, functions of traffic police, and management of police services.

**Utah Amends Drunken Driving Law --** The Utah legislature has amended a 1957 drunken driving law, revising sections which the State Supreme Court had ruled as of doubtful constitutionality.

The 1957 law provided that results of a chemical test for sobriety were admissible as evidence in a trial of a motorist apprehended on suspicion of drunken driving. It established the doctrine of "implied consent" to the chemical test by reason of the motorist's possession of a driver's license. Refusal to undergo one of four optional chemical tests automatically resulted in revocation of license.

The amendment provides a hearing procedure before the State Department of Public Safety. If one can show to the department's satisfaction that he refused the test for good reason, he may be permitted to retain his license. Otherwise, it will be revoked for one year.

**Wisconsin Study of Highway Law Enforcement --** A research team from the Traffic Institute of Northwestern University, in cooperation with the Wisconsin State Patrol, has reported on a study of the effects of increased law enforcement on highway accident frequency.

The report concludes that more patrolmen on the highway will reduce accidents but the study did not establish notable effect on speeds of motorists. Fatal and personal injury accidents showed the great-

est reductions on routes with the heaviest concentrations of enforcement units.

The study involved two years of research on four stretches of Wisconsin highways.

#### BOATING SAFETY LEGISLATION

As of May 15, fifteen states had adopted laws in 1959 on registration and regulation of boats.

To promote safety, the legislatures of Idaho, Indiana, Nebraska, New York and Utah passed laws covering all motorboats. Measures adopted in Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, New Mexico and North Dakota cover motorboats over 10 horse power. Legislation in South Dakota relates to motorboats over 6 h.p. and in West Virginia to those over 5 h.p. An Arizona law covers all watercraft; so, with exceptions, does one in Minnesota.

Commissions and departments of fish and game, conservation, parks and recreation, natural resources and law enforcement are the various state agencies responsible for administration of the new boating laws.

#### NATURAL RESOURCES

**Electric Power Distribution --** Representatives of the Pacific Coast Governors' Power Committee, formed by the Chief Executives of California, Oregon and Washington, have agreed to employ a private firm to study the feasibility of bringing excess power from the Bonneville power system to California.

The Bonneville Power Administration supervises a number of power-dam sites and transmission lines, including the Bonneville and Grand Coulee systems. It serves the two northern Pacific states and Idaho and Montana. Some 3 billion kilowatt hours of Bonneville power go unused every year, which increases power costs for the northern states.

The San Francisco-based Pacific Gas and Electric Company has requested the right to buy and transmit the excess power. Representatives of the tri-state committee are uncertain whether this arrangement would provide the greatest long-range benefits to all concerned. An alternate proposal would integrate the Bonneville system with the still building Central Valley Project in California.

**Potomac River Compact --** A Potomac River Compact, for joint regulation of fisheries in the river by Maryland and Virginia, has been ratified by both states. The new instrument supersedes a historic compact of 1785. It authorizes a joint commission of six members -- three each from the fishery commissions of both states -- to regulate fish and seafood catches and to arrange research for conservation and development of the river's resources. Any program to lease oyster grounds or permit use of oyster dredges must be approved in advance by the legislatures of both states. Other regulations may be altered or cancelled

by concurrent action of the two legislatures. Personnel of the fisheries commissions of both states are responsible for enforcement, and violators may be tried by the courts of either state. Congressional approval of the compact is pending.

#### INTERSTATE CONFERENCE ON WATER PROBLEMS

The first annual meeting of the Interstate Conference on Water Problems was held May 28-29 in Chicago. The conference was organized to provide for interchange of ideas and information among the states and to increase understanding of state and federal water policies. Attending the meeting were more than 100 members from thirty-seven states, Hawaii and Puerto Rico -- representatives of state water agencies, other state officials concerned with water resource administration, and legislators.

Conference members participated in discussion sessions on water use and supply, pollution control, flood plain regulation and interstate and federal-state water problems. Professor Abel Wolman of Johns Hopkins University spoke at a luncheon meeting on "The Challenge to the States in Water Resources Administration."

At the closing session conference rules were adopted. A nine member Executive Committee was elected to be responsible for general management of the conference.

Francis A. Pitkin, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania State Planning Board, was elected Chairman; Harvey O. Banks, Director of the California Department of Water Resources, First Vice Chairman; Robert L. Smith, Executive Secretary of the Kansas Water Resources Board, Second Vice Chairman; William C. Ackermann, Chief of the Illinois Water Survey Division, Secretary-Treasurer. Other Executive Committee members are William S. Wise, Director, Connecticut Water Resources Commission; Sam Thompson, Chairman, Mississippi Board of Water Commissioners; R. M. Dixon, Texas Board of Water Engineers; Milo Holsveen, State Engineer, North Dakota State Water Conservation Commission; and Lewis A. Stanley, State Engineer, Oregon.

Following the meeting the Executive Committee provided for appointment of a Water Policy Committee to consider problems of state water resources administration and federal-state relations, and to report back to the next meeting.

#### MENTAL HEALTH COMPACT

Missouri, South Carolina and Vermont now have adopted the Interstate Compact on Mental Health, joining Alaska, Arkansas, Indiana and South Dakota as states that have ratified it this year, and bringing the total of party states to nineteen.

Missouri's participation will become effective September 1 and will be administered by the Director, Division of Mental Diseases, Department of Public Health and

Welfare. In South Carolina the compact became effective May 12 and is being handled by the Director of Mental Health. The Vermont adoption will become effective July 1, and the compact administrator is the Commissioner of Mental Health.

#### MENTAL RETARDATION

Kentucky Report on Needs -- The Citizens' Commission on Needs of the Mentally Retarded in Kentucky has issued a report to the Governor, with recommendations.

It urged preparation of an emergency budget request for submission to the legislature in 1960 to provide adequate facilities, services and personnel for more than 1,000 persons in the Kentucky Training Home. The report noted that the home was 44 per cent overcrowded and proposed establishment of two new training homes to bring facilities and services to a minimum standard.

The commission urged financial support for more trained teachers and classrooms, increased services, in-service training for public health personnel, and development of a workshop program offering training for older mentally retarded people in the state. Also recommended were establishment of a university-centered diagnostic and evaluation center, authorization for a continuing commission to study needs of the mentally retarded, and comprehensive study and revision of state statutes applicable to the mentally retarded.

#### LEGAL SANITY

California Court Upholds Test -- The California Supreme Court in decisions on two separate cases has liberalized rules governing admissibility of psychiatric testimony in criminal trials but has refused to change the basis for establishing insanity laid down by English judges in the M'Naghten rule of 1843.

Under the 116 year old ruling a defendant in a criminal case can be judged insane and not criminally responsible only on the grounds that he cannot distinguish right from wrong nor recognize the nature and quality of his acts.

In refusing to invalidate the M'Naghten rule the California high court said: "There is danger in judicial changes of long established rules of law, when such changes proceed from a court's assumption that it can recognize what has become a fact of social science." The court suggested that the proper remedy for those who oppose the existing test for sanity is modification of the penal code by the legislature.

While refusing to change the insanity rule for criminal cases, the court in a decision a few days later sanctioned more liberal use of psychiatric knowledge in criminal cases. It upheld a lower court's ruling which admitted psychiatric testimony on mental illness as a partial defense for



murder and took the testimony into account, finding the defendant guilty of second degree murder when all other testimony supported first degree murder.

The lower court found that the defendant was incapable of premeditated malicious murder, a first degree crime, even though testimony of the defense psychiatrist admitted that the defendant knew right from wrong and was therefore legally sane. The defense psychiatrist was permitted to go on from there and testify that the defendant was suffering from a disintegration of mind and personality and to describe the commission of the murder as a compulsive act.

#### NARCOTICS TREATMENT

California is undertaking a pioneering step to help solve the narcotics problem. A newly enacted law authorizes establishment this fall of a pilot clinic for treatment and control at the Chino institution for men. Aim is to prevent readmission of paroled prisoners. The law authorizes enforcement personnel to pick up paroled addicts at any time for a test to determine whether they have been using drugs. Parolees found to be using them will be sent to the Chino unit for medical and psychiatric treatment. Hopeless cases will be returned to prison as parole violators, to prevent their committing crime to obtain money for drugs.

#### MIGRATORY LABOR

Representatives of sixteen states met in St. Louis, Missouri, April 7-9 for a Mid-American Conference on Migratory Labor, sponsored jointly by the President's Committee on Migratory Labor and the Council of State Governments. Delegates included legislators, state migrant commission members, public health officials, educators, church workers, spokesmen for growers' associations and food canners who employ migratory labor.

The conference recommended that compulsory education laws be established and enforced for migrant as for other children. It urged continuity of educational records about migrant children, to be available to schools along the migrant route. The conference proposed that states using migratory labor adopt housing and sanitation codes which will comply with recommendations of the President's Committee on Migratory Labor. Another recommendation urged state study of the establishment of minimum wages for agricultural workers and support for a study of this problem now being made by the United States Secretary of Labor. Finally, it recommended that the conference become a permanent organization and that the sponsoring agencies appoint an advisory committee to assist in drawing up an organizational plan, providing channels of communication for information, and scheduling regular conferences.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Connecticut Abolishes County Government -- Legislation adopted in Connecticut has abolished county government in that state as part of a reorganization program proposed by Governor Abraham A. Ribicoff. Under the measure the state's eight counties cease to exist as governmental units, and their functions are transferred to state agencies. In recent years the major role filled by Connecticut counties has been maintenance of county jails. The jails will be taken over by the state and will be under jurisdiction of a new State Department of Correction. Other buildings will be turned over to the State Department of Public Works. Other proposed measures in the Governor's reorganization program are pending in the legislature.

Local Officials Polled -- The office of Governor Christopher Del Sesto of Rhode Island has established a systematic procedure for obtaining views of local officials regarding bills in the legislature affecting organization or operation of local governmental units. Copies of bills or information about them are sent regularly to local officials affected by the proposals, with the request that they inform the Governor's office of their views on them. For example, opinions of school committees in all Rhode Island cities and towns were solicited with respect to bills dealing with teacher tenure and assistance for teacher training. Views of police chiefs were requested with regard to a bill for regulating firearms. Response to the requests for local opinions has run as high as 80 per cent of the officials polled.

Municipal Year Book, 1959 -- The 26th annual volume of The Municipal Year Book, 1959, published by the International City Managers' Association, presents a comprehensive view of urban government, with tables on the organization, personnel, finances and activities of United States cities.

Sections on urban renewal and economic classification are highlights. The urban renewal section includes information for 252 cities on programs, organization, numbers of employees, expenditures, and numbers of persons relocated because of urban renewal. Economic classification data, for standard metropolitan areas and all cities over 10,000 population, relate to economic base, metropolitan status, rent level, and manufacturing and employment-residence ratios. Material on special assessments in 876 cities over 10,000 in population shows improvements financed by special assessment, methods of financing, and allocation of costs to property owners.

An article on urban counties reviews 1958 developments in intergovernmental cooperation and summarizes programs and serv-

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ices of forty-three state associations of county officials. Another article gives information on traffic control ordinances, devices, surveys and planning for 1,037 cities.

Significant developments during 1958 in the major categories of municipal activity are reviewed by outstanding authorities. Most regular sections of the annual year book have been revised and brought up to date. The book, edited by Orin F. Nolting and David S. Arnold, is available from the International City Managers' Association, 1313 East 60th Street, Chicago 37, Illinois, \$10 postpaid.

#### ATTORNEYS GENERAL CONFERENCE

The Fifty-third Annual Conference of the National Association of Attorneys General met in New Orleans May 3-7. Attorney General Jack P. F. Gremillion of Louisiana was host. Representatives from forty-four states, Puerto Rico and the United States Department of Justice attended.

Among resolutions adopted, the association urged Congress to authorize states to commit narcotic addicts to federal hospitals in accordance with state procedures, and approved legislation extending provisions of the Federal Tort Claims Act to cover activities of National Guard personnel engaged in training.

Other resolutions were on income taxation of non-residents, federal-state relations and federal taxation of state and local securities. The association formed committees on antitrust problems and consumer frauds, and continued committees on atomic energy law, habeas corpus, interstate compacts, escheat, internal security and the administration of criminal justice.

Charles S. Rhyne, Immediate Past President of the American Bar Association, speaking at the state dinner, called on the Attorneys General to help in "persuading nations to fight out their disputes at court houses rather than on battlefields."

Attorney General Richard W. Ervin of Florida was elected President of the association, and Attorney General Duke W. Dunbar of Colorado Vice President. Other Executive Committee members are Attorneys General John Anderson, Jr., Kansas; Norman A. Erbe, Iowa; David D. Furman, New Jersey; George F. McCanless, Tennessee; Stanley Mosk, California; John J. O'Connell, Washington; Frederick M. Reed, Vermont; and Will Wilson, Texas.

Attorney General John M. Dalton of Missouri received the Wyman award for outstanding work in advancing the association's objectives.

The 1960 meeting of the association will be held in San Francisco in early July.

#### BUSINESS REGULATION

A recent Wyoming law prohibits use of trading stamps except for coupons issued by merchants and redeemable in their own stores for cash or merchandise from retail stock. Four trading stamp companies have filed suit in the Cheyenne, Wyoming, State District Court challenging the constitutionality of the act. The companies maintain that their business constitutes an effective system of sales promotion and advertising for merchants. They charge the legislation deprives them of equal protection of the laws in that it prohibits issuance of trading stamps by them but exempts other forms of cash discounts. The suit claims the act constitutes a prohibition of business and an impairment of the obligation of contracts.



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